

The Black people who made America the great country it is have not been properly appreciated and respected. Yes, we should have Black History Month. Yes, we will continue to show these resolutions and to appreciate what happened, but we have to respect the people.

In this country, we have shown more respect for the enslavers than the enslaved. In this country, we have shown respect for the Confederate enslavers and disrespected the enslaved.

You disrespect the enslaved when you show respect for those who enslaved them. That act in and of itself is disrespect. Every statue in every city of Confederate soldiers is a way of disrespecting the people who were enslaved. It is time to honor and respect those who were enslaved in this country.

To do that, to honor them and respect them, the least we can do is what we have done for the Confederate soldiers. In this country, in 1956, we passed a resolution in the House of Representatives to give the Confederate soldiers a Congressional Gold Medal. No such honor has been bestowed upon the foundational mothers and fathers and the enslaved people who laid the foundation for America's greatness—no such honor.

If we can accord the highest medal that the Congress can award to Confederate soldiers, surely we can appreciate and respect the enslaved persons who helped make America the great country it is today.

We ought to, this Congress ought to, Democrats and Republicans ought to vote to accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved people who helped make America great, the people who suffered one of the greatest crimes ever committed against humanity, enslaved for centuries in this country. We ought to show them some respect. We ought to accord them a Congressional Gold Medal. We must do for them what we did for the Confederate soldiers.

We should not revere the enslavers and revile the enslaved. It is time to respect the foundational mothers and fathers of this country. I intend to ask all of my colleagues by way of a piece of legislation that we filed on the last day of Black History Month with intentionality. We wanted to give the entire month for persons to become original cosponsors of this resolution.

It is a resolution that would call for a Congressional Gold Medal being presented to the foundational mothers and fathers of the country. I said resolution; it is actually a piece of legislation. It would have to pass the House and pass the Senate. I believe it can be done.

I know to some people this is unacceptable. I understand there are many people who won't find favor with what I am saying. I challenge anybody to defy the truth in what I say. Defy the truth. The truth is that we have disrespected the enslaved. The truth is

we have lionized the enslavers. That has to change.

Posterity has to receive a positive message about the people who built this country. This is that positive message. This message is one that will say to posterity that we want you to know that we have respect for the enslaved people who suffered their entire lives, many of them, from birth to death—babies born into slavery, grew up in slavery, lived and died in slavery—respect for their lives, suffering, and sacrifice. They should be respected.

The truth is, we have not. I want my friends to know that this piece of legislation would allow us to present this Congressional Gold Medal. The President would sign the legislation. I believe this President will sign it. There are some who wouldn't; President Joe Biden is not one of them. I would stake my life on it. If this passes the House and the Senate, I would put my life on the notion that he will sign it. I believe he will.

My prayer is that the House and the Senate will have the courage to do not just the right thing and pass this but to do the righteous thing, to show now, some hundreds of years later, the respect that we should have shown hundreds of years before to the enslaved people who worked, lived, and died without remuneration—the enslaved people also, I might add, who were demeaned. One of the greatest insults ever was that many people called them lazy. Many of the people who were doing this, mind you, were owners of slaves.

Now, you are a slave owner. You are working people for nothing at no cost to you, other than you have to maintain your property as you see it. You would call them lazy because they don't work hard enough.

Lazy? Free labor. Lazy? Built the Capitol, White House, roads, bridges; planted the crops; harvested the crops. Lazy? At no cost. What an insult. What an insult.

Here is the opportunity for us to show the respect that, through the window of the centuries, we should pass back to them and let them know that we appreciate them.

If we do this, America the beautiful will be a more beautiful America. If we do this, history will reward us with a better image of ourselves, in the sense that we will be shown as people who will recognize a transgression and do all that we can to correct it, even hundreds of years later.

The least we can do is show respect for the enslaved people who built America and helped to make it the great country that it is.

I am proud to be a descendant of the enslaved people who built this country, who helped to make it the place that I love and the place that I defend. I do love my country.

I will close with this. I want no one to assume that because I want justice and because I want righteousness to prevail that I don't love the country. I

wear the flag. I salute the flag. I sing the national anthem—I stand for it.

I am that guy who loves his country, but my saluting the flag and singing the national anthem is almost inconsequential because, you see, the question is: Will I defend the person who does not salute the flag, who does not sing the national anthem, who won't stand for it and takes a knee? Will I defend that person?

The greatness of America lies in our ability to defend those who don't salute the flag. That is the greatness. The greatness is not in AL GREEN placing his hand over his heart and saying the pledge. I do it, but that is not the greatness.

The greatness is in recognizing that, in this country, you have the freedom to salute or not. I love the country. I am going to fight to defend the country.

Just as I loved my family, my mother and father loved me, and when I was wrong, there were consequences. We have to correct the wrong. We have to right the injustice.

I stand here today to say, as a proud American, I want to right the wrong, correct the injustice, and accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved foundational mothers and fathers of this country.

REMOVING THE NAME OF RICHARD RUSSELL
FROM THE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Allow me to speak on another topic today. This is a topic that I have spoken on previously on this floor, and it is one, I believe, that merits consideration every opportunity I can present it to people of good will.

This topic has to do with the Russell Senate Office Building, a building that I choose not to go into because I think the name should be removed from the building. I won't go into the history of it now, but I will say this: There will be a vote at some point in the Senate to remove Richard Russell's name from the Russell Senate Office Building.

There will be a vote. At some point, I will come back to this floor and will correctly state that the name of "Richard Russell" has been removed from the Russell Senate Office Building.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1230

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-12)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HOUCHE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides

for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2023.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has not made the necessary political and economic reforms that would warrant terminating the existing targeted sanctions program. Throughout the last year, government security services routinely intimidated and violently repressed citizens, including members of opposition political parties, union members, and journalists. The absence of progress on the most fundamental reforms needed to ensure the rule of law, democratic governance, and the protection of human rights leaves Zimbabweans vulnerable to ongoing repression and presents a continuing threat to the peace and security in the region.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288, as amended, with respect to Zimbabwe and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 1, 2023.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-13)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accord-

ance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2023.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 1, 2023.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO UKRAINE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-14)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 13661, Executive Order 13662, and Executive Order 14065, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13685 and Executive Order 13849, is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2023.

The actions and policies of persons that undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, as well as the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation, including its purported annexation of Crimea and its use of force in Ukraine, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 1, 2023.

KLAMATH RIVER BASIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the time to stand before the House here this afternoon and talk about some issues that are not only important to my district in northern California to a couple of our key industries but really, they are important to all Americans because this is a life-sustaining topic we are talking about, and that is food, energy, and shelter.

We had that in abundance in California when we were allowed to produce the things that cause those to happen.

In my northern California district we have much agriculture. We have also an amazing natural water supply and the opportunities that come with that by harnessing that water supply for food for people, for agriculture, for hydroelectric power to make electricity and keep the lights on in places like this and all over America, and to mine the minerals that we need to produce all manner of things. These come from the natural resources we have in northern California, Minnesota, and all over this country.

So we have been successful in developing them and making them real since the founding of this country.

We have fallen on hard times more recently, though, with regulations that although may be well-founded and well-minded 50 years ago have been turned on their ear and work against good management of our forestlands, the extraction of minerals we need to sustain some of the ideals we have going forward for the future, for water supply, for agriculture, and for this country that has always known plenty.

These days we are actually seeing at some points empty shelves in our grocery stores in the United States.

It reminds me of a story about the time when former Russian President Boris Yeltsin was visiting this country with President Bush 41. They had gone to Houston, I believe, to the Space Center. They had left and were driving down the road. He saw a supermarket. He hadn't been in an American supermarket before. So he wanted to just pop in randomly with the President, the then-President of Russia, to see what it looked like.

President Yeltsin was amazed by the products that we have on the shelves in American stores. Not only that, but